

# F. E. P. C.



*One Example  
of the Workings of the  
so-called*

**FAIR EMPLOYMENT  
PRACTICE COMMISSION**



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LATELY, we have been reading newspaper accounts of the success of the FEPC in its first year of existence in the City of Philadelphia (as released by the Fair Employment Practice Commission). We are told 204 cases were brought to its attention and 155 were adjusted "satisfactorily", the remaining cases being still under investigation. How do we, the public, know that 155 cases were adjusted satisfactorily? Or were they closed by intimidation of prospective employers through threat of invoking the penalties provided in this class legislation ordinance? No details of the cases are stated, only that they were "adjusted".

It is a case still under investigation that strengthens my belief that this so-called Fair Employment Practice ordinance should never have been passed, that it is not fair, and is doing just what I predicted—that is, it has directed discrimination against the white Christian. Two wrongs do not make a right. Discrimination is discrimination whether it be against White, Black, Jew or any other group.

A German girl came to me with tears in

her eyes and with a very heavy heart because of the experience she has had. Her story is this:—She came to this country in 1947 and married an American ex-soldier. She expects her citizenship to be granted in September of this year. In the early part of March, she answered an advertisement in the paper for a typist to do billing work and was told to come for an interview. The secretary in the office explained the work to her and gave her a test and said the work was very good. The owner of the business was present during this examination. She told them both that she had been in this country only about 18 months and could not do work which required too much English. While she was there, several phone calls came in about the position and they said they would let her know.

The following day the secretary telephoned to her and told her to come to work the next morning. She did, and worked until 4.30 p.m. The secretary's father called for her that evening, as they were going away over the weekend, it being a Friday. The secretary introduced the German girl to the father because he had been born in a village near her father's native village in Germany, and they had a nice talk. As the secretary and her father left, Mr. J. (the Boss) followed them to the car. When he returned, he said to her "Mrs. Blank, I am a Jew and I do hate



the Germans. Your work is very satisfactory but I do hate the Germans. If you want to work here, I want you to secure for me, within two weeks, a document that states you did not kill any Jews or harm them in any way." She tried to explain that if she had been a Nazi or had been guilty of any such crimes, she would not have been permitted to come to this country, but he insisted.

He gave her pay for that day's work out of his pocket, without making any of the required deductions.

Then she went to the expense and trouble of writing to the Immigration Offices, and of telegraphing her father in Germany to secure the proper papers, and has since received full documentary clearance on the behavior of her family and of herself while in Germany.

The Monday morning next, she went to work reluctantly and the secretary was pleased to see her and said "I was afraid you would be fired. Mr. J. told me and my father on Friday he would fire you because you were not a Jew and my father told Mr. J. he could not do that." All day Monday, Mr. J. criticised everything that she did and raised a fuss about all the work and finally told her just before noon that she was through, that he had given her a chance but the work was unsatisfactory.

The following day she reported to the State Employment Office on West Cheltenham Avenue in the hope of getting another job and told them how she had been fired. They told her Mr. J. owed her for Monday's work which she requested by letter and received a check. Some days later the clearance documents arrived and she wrote to Mr. J. and suggested that he should pay her for them because he had ordered them and told her that if she got them she could continue working for him, but he had fired her anyway.

He has refused to pay for this, saying in a letter to her "I did not tell you *how* to secure the documents . . ." and on reporting back to the State Employment Office on Cheltenham Avenue she was informed that Mr. J. had reported her as an unsatisfactory worker and they suggested that she go to the FEPC office in City Hall.

Mr. Milo Manly was the first person she met there and he listened to her story and said she had a clear case and not to worry. The second time he talked to her he was very nice and asked that she type up her story which she did. The third time she was there, Mr. Manly seemed to have turned a complete about face and suggested that she would not want him, a Negro, to file a complaint against a Jew! Mr. Manly tried to explain to her that if it would come to a Court hearing with



ordinance. He showed discrimination because of race, color, national origin and ancestry, which he had no right, under the FEPC law, to do.

He made inquiry about her record and demanded documents showing past record, about which he had no right under the FEPC law to inquire.

Knowing she was from Germany, because she had carefully told him, he hired her and said her work was satisfactory, then when his prejudice got the better of him, he said her work was unsatisfactory because he had to say that in order to be able to fire her.

If there had been no FEPC law to take into consideration, and this employer could have exercised the age old right to hire and fire whom he pleased, he very probably would have done it in a very different manner. He very likely would have said "Mrs. Blank, you are German and I am a Jew. I think we would both be happier if you sought employment somewhere else, and I will give you a good letter of recommendation." No feelings hurt, no record smeared, no discrimination, just common sense. But because he had to consider the FEPC law, he had to say her work was unsatisfactory, and here is one girl who will have difficulty getting employment because the State Employment Office has a black mark against her name, and the FEPC

in City Hall claims it will not remove this smirch.

This is just one case of which there must be many duplicates, and I leave it to you—is this Fair or Unfair Employment Practice??

Kern Dodge  
Philadelphia 2

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Have you heard of similar cases?

Do you still feel there should be  
be class legislation for the benefit  
of any minority group?

Why not write to your City and  
Government officials giving them  
your views?